**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application.

1. (Currently Amended) A method for performing business-related analysis, comprising:

generating a predicted value using a model that is based on censored data collected from a multi-stage business operation ~~executed by~~using an electronic data processing apparatus ~~that is based on censored data~~, the predicted value containing an error attributed to information that is missing from the censored data within a specified time interval;

performing a trending operation using trending logic executed by the electronic data processing apparatus to derive a standardized score that pertains to a variance of the predicted value with respect to other predicted values generated using the model for the specified time interval;

performing a de-trending operation using de-trending logic executed by the electronic data processing apparatus to reduce the error in the predicted value based on the standardized score calculated in the trending logic, wherein the de-trending operation comprises the steps of:

computing an actual mean of actual values for the specified time interval;

computing an actual standard deviation of actual values for the specified time interval; and

computing ~~the~~ an output result by multiplying the standardized score calculated in the trending logic by the actual standard deviation to produce a product, and adding the actual mean to the product; ~~and~~

generating an electrical signal representative of ~~an~~ the output result that includes probability information associated with the output result; and

controlling the multi-stage business operation based on the output result.

2. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the trending operation comprises:

computing a predicted mean of a collection of predicted values within the specified time interval;

computing a predicted standard deviation of the predicted values within the specified time interval; and

computing the standardized score by subtracting the predicted mean from the predicted value to produce a difference, and dividing the difference by the predicted standard deviation.

3-6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the ~~incomplete dataset~~ censored data contains at least 30 percent missing information relative to a total population of potential information.

8. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the ~~business-related analysis pertains to a~~ business operation pertains to a business in which vehicles are leased to customers, and wherein the ~~dataset stores~~ censored data includes cycle time values that reflect the respective amounts of time for which the customers lease the vehicles.

9. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 8, wherein missing information from the ~~incomplete dataset~~ censored data corresponds to vehicles that have not yet been returned by respective customers, and thus for which the cycle time values are not yet determined.

10. (Original) The method according to claim 8, wherein the predicted value pertains to an estimate of when a customer will return a leased vehicle.

11-28. (Canceled)

29. (Currently Amended) A program storage device readable by an electronic data processing apparatus, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the apparatus to perform method steps, said method steps comprising:

generating a predicted value using a model ~~executed by an electronic data processing apparatus~~ that is based on censored data collected from a multi-stage business operation using an electronic data processing apparatus, the predicted value containing an error attributed to information that is missing from the censored data within a specified time interval;

performing a trending operation using trending logic executed by the electronic data processing apparatus to derive a standardized score that pertains to a variance of the predicted value with respect to other predicted values generated using the model for the specified time interval;

performing a de-trending operation using de-trending logic executed by the electronic data processing apparatus to reduce the error in the predicted value based on the standardized score calculated in the trending logic, wherein the de-trending operation comprises the steps of:

computing an actual mean of actual values for the specified time interval;

computing an actual standard deviation of actual values for the specified time interval; and

computing ~~the~~ an output result by multiplying the standardized score calculated in the trending logic by the actual standard deviation to produce a product, and adding the actual mean to the product; ~~and~~

generating an electrical signal representative of ~~an~~ the output result that includes probability information associated with the output result; and

controlling the multi-stage business operation based on the output result.

30-31. (Canceled)

32. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 29, wherein the trending logic is to further:

compute a predicted mean of the other predicted values within the specified time interval;

compute a predicted standard deviation of the other predicted values within the specified time interval;

compute the standardized score by subtracting the predicted mean from the computed predicted value to produce a difference; and

divide the different by the predicted standard deviation.

33. (Canceled)

34. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein the model comprises a plurality of sub-models corresponding to a respective stage of the multi-stage business operation.

35. (New) The device according to claim 29, wherein the model comprises a plurality of sub-models corresponding to a respective stage of the multi-stage business operation.